



Forest Insect & Disease Management

Report No. 80-3-39

Issued on: 8-22-80

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY OF FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE ACTIVITY, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Department of Interior
LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: National Park Service
Big Cypress National Wildlife Preserve
STATE: Florida

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 125,000 acres

DATE: August 15, 1980

PERCENT COVERAGE: 100%

AIRCRAFT: Aero Commander 500B

CREW: Carroll Schell (NPS), Trudy Brandau, William Allison, William Carothers

REPORT PREPARED BY: William Carothers

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

To delineate areas of baldcypress (Taxodium distichum) currently being defoliated within the Big Cypress National Wildlife Preserve.

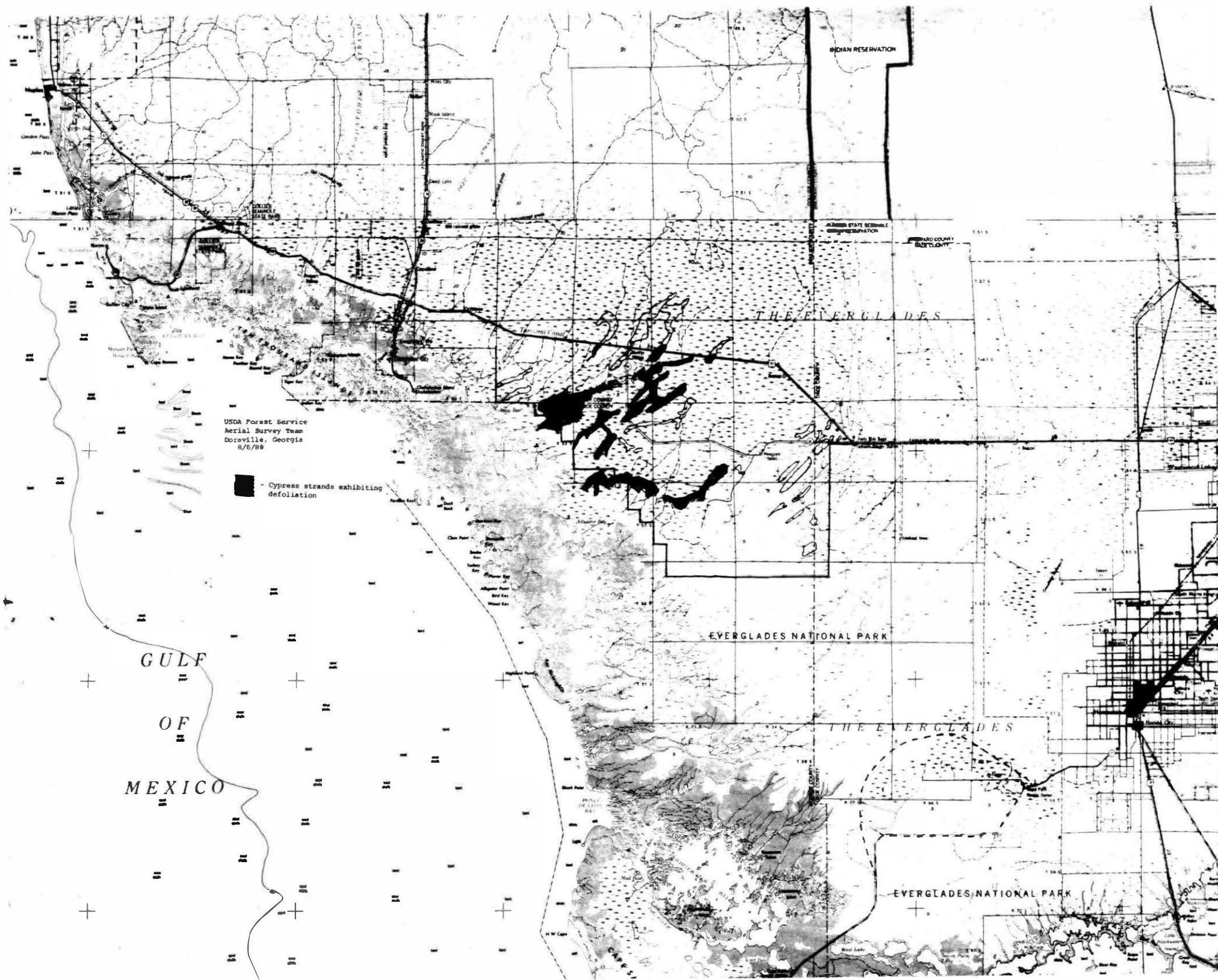
SURVEY RESULTS

Areas of reddened and defoliated baldcypress were observed throughout the southern portions of the Preserve. Observed damage was confined to the cypress stands which run throughout the Preserve. Approximately 12,000 acres of old growth cypress was suffering from various degrees of defoliation (refer to map). A preliminary ground evaluation revealed a high population of lepidopterous larvae. These "inchworms" were found feeding on the delicate leaflets of the baldcypress. National Park Service personnel tentatively identified the larvae as Anacamptodes cypressaria. Specimens collected during the initial ground evaluation have been sent to the USDA Insect Identification and Beneficial Insect Introduction Institute in Beltsville, Maryland for positive identification. A species closely related to A. cypressaria, Anacamptodes pergacilis or cypress looper has defoliated baldcypress in Arkansas, Georgia and Florida in the past. More recently, A. pergacilis was responsible for defoliation of baldcypress in Maryland during 1979.

We are currently researching previous outbreaks of cypress defoliation and the life cycle of the suspected pest. A complete aerial and ground evaluation will be conducted on the Big Cypress National Wildlife Preserve during September and October, 1980 when the second generation of the insect is present. The USDA Forest Service is cooperating with the National Park Service on this insect problem. When the evaluation is complete recommendations will be suggested and additional assistance given if needed to minimize the damage caused by the defoliation of the limited cypress resource within the Big Cypress National Wildlife Preserve.

For additional information, contact

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Telephone: 404/221-4796



USDA Forest Service
Aerial Survey Team
Doraville, Georgia
8/6/88

■ Cypress strands exhibiting
defoliation

GULF
OF
MEXICO

INDIAN RESERVATION

FLORIDA STATE BERMUDA
RESERVATION

FLORIDA COUNTY
SHERIFFS OFFICE

THE EVERGLADES

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

THE EVERGLADES

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK